

David McCandless

1 that that's what contributed to the bulk of the
2 fire, was that hydraulic fluid release.

3 Q. So the difference is you just don't know that
4 there was a preexisting fire; is that --

5 A. Essentially, yes. I mean the largest fuel load
6 occurred when that hose separated.

7 Q. Okay. "This fluid subsequently ignited on an
8 elevated temperature surface within the engine
9 compartment."

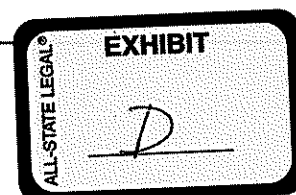
10 Do you still believe that today?

11 A. Yes, I mean although, again, there is a
12 possibility that if you have a preexisting fire
13 that that can also provide your ignition source of
14 the released fluid.

15 Q. So are you suggesting that there are other
16 possibilities that are not included in here, but
17 you still believe what you have included in here
18 as the cause and origin of the fire?

19 A. Well, the primary information, I think, that's
20 relevant specifically to cause and origin issues
21 is the information on the starter that I did not
22 have and was not aware of, I guess, at the time
23 that I wrote the report.

24 Q. Okay. So you believe the starter could have



David McCandless

1 caused a smaller fire that predated the fire that
2 you discuss in your report, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And is there anything else that -- where the
5 starter plays a part in the fire that you discuss
6 in your report? Again, I understand we're talking
7 about possibilities.

8 A. Well, I don't know that I follow the question.

9 Q. All right. Well, let me ask it, then --

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. -- in a marginally better way, at least. Other
12 than the starter having caused a preexisting fire
13 that preexisted the fire that you discuss here in
14 your report, is there any other way the starter
15 issues that you've subsequently learned about
16 change or affect your conclusions that I've just
17 read to you?

18 A. I don't believe so.

19 Q. So unless there was a starter fire or a fire
20 caused by the starter that was already going on,
21 your report would be exactly the same today as it
22 was back in 2007?

23 A. I believe that's accurate, yes.

24 Q. Okay. Is there any reason why you haven't amended